

LDEQ adds key air quality equipment at Westlake site

Thanks to a \$38,886 boost in grant money, LDEQ has upgraded its particulate matter (PM) monitoring capability in Southwest Louisiana. The money went toward the purchase of the T640X – a continuous PM sampler.

“It’s an upgrade. The one that was there wasn’t NAAQS compatible,” Environmental Scientist Manager Peter Cazeaux said. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are the minimum values EPA requires for the federal agency’s six primary criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, particulate matter, lead, ozone, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. In order to achieve attainment, states must conduct air monitoring with a NAAQS compatible monitor for a set period.



Environmental scientists Jennifer Blanchard, left, and Courtney Villemarette will work with the T640X

The new equipment helps LDEQ meet that commitment, Cazeaux said, and has another benefit. “This will allow us to have real time data for Westlake.”

The equipment went online at the beginning of April.

“It came out of the PM2.5 (small particulate matter) grant from EPA,” Cazeaux said. “They gave us an increase in grant money.”

Jason Meyers, administrator for air assessment, said the equipment actually cost \$39,892, slightly more than the increase in the grant, but it’s worth it, he said.

“This will help us better protect human health and the environment and serve the people of the Lake Charles area,” Meyers said.